

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 AID-05

CEQ-01 COA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 NSF-01 OES-03

ACDA-05 AEC-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00

OMB-01 CIEP-01 CEA-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02 /144 W

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R 270800Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0045

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL UNN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1221

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, GA

SUBJ: LOS: CONSULTATION WITH GAMBIA

USUN PLS PASS AMBASSADOR STEVENSON AND MR MOORE

1. SUMMARY GAMBIA HAS LITTLE DIFFICULTY WITH MOST ASPECTS OF US LOS POSITION. AT SAME TIME THEY SEEM PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH AFRICAN MAJORITY ON MAJOR LOS ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON 24 AND 25 FEB, CHARGE MCFARLAND AND DEPT LOS OFFICER NORDQUIST MET WITH SOLICITOR-GENERAL O'BRIAN COKER, FISHERIES DIRECTOR TAYLOR-THOMAS AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICER SALLAH TO DISCUSS MUTUAL LOS CONCERNS.

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ABOVE GAMBIANS PLUS ATTY GENERAL AND ONE AS YET

UNNAMED OFFICER WILL CONSTITUTE THEIR GENEVA LOS DEL.

3. GAMBIA SUPPORTS 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTS 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AS IT IS "ZONE LOCKED" BY SENEGAL. WITHIN ECONOMIC ZONE, GAMBIA'S PRIMARY INTEREST IS REGIONAL FISHERIES ARRANGEMENTS. THEY HOPE TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THEIR FISHING CAPACITY AND HAVE RECENTLY ACQUIRED NEW VESSEL WITH UNDP ASSISTANCE. GHANA AND JAPAN ALREADY HAVE FISHING PLANTS IN GAMBIA AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH USSR FOR JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENT. TAYLOR-THOMAS WAS VERY EMPHATIC ABOUT NEED FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION AND DOES NOT BELIEVE VIABLE GAMBIA FISHERIES IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT IT. THEY HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH PRESENT US FISHERIES APPROACH. GAMBIA HOPES TO FIND OFFSHORE OIL, AND SHELL APPARENTLY HAS A CONCESSION WHICH HOLDS SOME PROMISE.

4. O'BRIAN COKER SEEMED TAKEN WITH US POSITION ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND STATED THEY AGREED WITH THIS APPROACH SO LONG AS COASTAL STATE COULD MENINGFULLY PARTICIPATE. CONSENT WAS NOT MAJOR PROBLEM IF FLAG STATE OBLIGATIONS MET.

5. GAMBIA, AS ZONE-LOCKED STATE,STRONGLY SUPPORTS NEED FOR FREEDOWM OF NAVIGATION IN ECONOMIC ZONE. THEY SEEMED TO DELIGHT IN TWISTING US TAIL REGARDING STRAITS, BUT IN SERIOUS VAIN O'BRIAN COKER SAID BLACK AFRICANS HAD NO REAL STRAITS CONCERNS AND WOULD GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER WAS WORKED OUT BY MAJORITY. THEY DID NOT REALLY SEEM TOO CONCERNED ABOUT SUPPOSED ARAB PROBLEMS IN GIBRALTER OR TEHRAN.

6. WITH RESPECT TO MARINE POLLUTION, O'BRIAN COKER SAID HE HAD TRACKED IN ENOUGH TAR FROM BEACHES TO APPRECIATE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. HE BELIEVES IMCO COULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE FORUM AND RECNTLY RECOMMENDED THAT HIS GOVT JOIN THAT BODY. GAMBIA DOES NOT FAVOR COASTAL STATE ENFORCEMENT IN FULL 200-MILE ZONE. WHILE COASTAL STATE ENFORCEMENT OF DISCHARGE STANDARDS IN PART OF ZONE WAS PROBABLY NECESSARY, CONCURRENT PORT

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STATE AND FLAG STATE ENFORCEMENT WAS ALSO NECESSARY. O'BRIAN COKER STATED THAT SENEGAL SHOULD BE ABLE TO ARREST VESSELS IN DAKAR THAT COMMIT POLUTION OFFENSES IN GAMBIA'S ECONOMIC ZONE.

7 DEEP SEABED REGIME APPARENTLY WAS NOT OF GREAT INTEREST TO GAMBIA.AS O'BRIAN COKER PHRASED IT, THEY HOPED TO "GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT, BUT SOMEHOW IT SEEMED RATHER

REMOTE". US LICENSING SYSTEM SEEMED ACCEPTABLE TO GAMBIA BUT THEY COULD JUST AS EASILY GO ALONG WITH GROUP OF 77 POSITION.

8. O'BRIAN COKER DID STATE SEVERAL TIMES THAT UNILATERAL ACTION BY US WOULD IGNITE SERIES OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS BY OTHERS. HE SEEMED TO HAVE 200-MILE FISHERIES LEGISLATION IN MIND.

9. GAMBIA STRONGLY SUPPORTS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AS PILLAR OF LOS TREATY AND O'BRIAN COKER AT LEAST WOULD LIKE SOME ROLE IN PROMOTING THIS ASPECT OF LOS TREATY.

10. COMMENT. GAMBIA PLANS TO HAVE THREE PEOPLE AT GENEVA (ATTY GEN AND SOLICITOR GEN. WILL ALTERNATE AT HEAD OF DEL) TO COVER ALL THREE COMMITTEES. THEIR GENERAL ATTITUDE WAS FAIRLY RELAXED ON LOS. (SALLAH SEEMED TO BE MOST IDEALISTIC AND WAS ONLY ONE TO MENTION OAU POSITION.) THEY SEEMED PREOCCUPIED WITH SHORTER-TERM, PRACTICAL EFFECTS CONF WILL HAVE ON READILY IDENTIFIABLE GAMBIA INTERESTS. GAMBIA IS UNLIKELY TO BE A CONF. LEADER. IT IS MOST LIKELY TO GO ALONG WITH AFRICAN POSITIONS UNLESS IMMEDIATE ADVERSE IMPACT IS SEEN FOR GAMBIA INTERESTS.
AGGREY

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